

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Bargenquast, Roy
Council Bluffs

Interviewer: Robert Schierbaum

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BOLD PRINT is CCC enrollee Roy Bargenquast

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DNR: Today is April 5, 2002 and my name is Bob Schierbaum and today we are interviewing Roy Bargenquast from Council Bluff here at the Council Bluffs library. Also sitting in today is Greg Jarrett from Council Bluffs, Nonpareil newspaper.

Welcome Roy, Can you tell where you home town was?

I was born on a farm in between Irwin and Manilla. Manilla is the address.

DNR; Is that in Nebraska or Iowa?

That is Iowa.

DNR: How old were you when you enrolled in the CCC camp?

I was 20 years old.

DNR: What did you do before you went to work at the camp?

Oh gosh, I ran away from home when I was 16 years old and got into trouble in school and rode a freight train and I had 20 cents in my pocket. I got over to Omaha and walked over the railroad bridge and detective was there and he said you can't go across here. And I said, "I am already across." And I had to go walk all the way across the Missouri River and go over the bridge and pay a nickel and I bought some rolls for 15 cents then I was broke.

So, I got in the freight car and it was the 2nd of February. By the way and it was pretty cold. I got in there in it was dark and there was a black guy in there who was gay and had never seen a black guy because I lived in the sticks, and I discouraged him or whatever you call it. When we got to Kansas City and it got daylight looked up at him and oh, he was homely and I took off like a dirty shirt. And he said, "Wait a minute, wait a minute." I said, "No way." (Laughter)

And then I took off and went down to Oklahoma to see my sister and I stayed down they're for 8 months and I came home and got a job on a farm for \$7.50 a month. Oh anyway that was that and I went up to North Dakota and harvested up there when I was 15 and next year I was 16, so I really did quite a bit before I went to service. Before I went to the CC's.

DNR: So why did you enroll in the CCC's?

Well, I we needed the money. My mother had three younger kids than me. They got \$25.00 a month and I got \$5.00 a month. It wasn't very much but.

DNR: It was better than \$7.50.

Well \$5.00 a month isn't near as much as \$7.50.

DNR: Your right.

I worked on a farm out there and I did all of the farming out there.

DNR: What camps were you assigned to?

I was in Clarinda, I was there for I am not sure how long and then they shipped me to Red Oak. That is when I built dam and stuff. I was in charge of building that dam

and had 36 guys under me and we built a 6 x 6 plume and all that goes over there. I am not sure if it was to the southeast or what direction it was. Any way we got that done. All lot of wheelbarrow work.

DNR: Why did they transfer you to Red Oak? Did they close the camp there?

I don't know. I had a girlfriend down there and I don't know why they did that. Anyway I was in the dam crew for a while and then the civilian crew.

DNR: What do you mean the dam crew?

I built terraces. I got pretty good at that I could just walk around and just about tell where the slope was. Then I got driving the caterpillar for building the terraces.

DNR: Do you know what the dates were that you went in?

It was October of 1937.

DNR: And how long were you in?

I was in about a year. I don't remember when well I got discharged in 39 or something. Yes it was in August of 39.

DNR: Ok. Can you tell me about your first day at the camp? Anything you can remember anything?

Well, not really. They gave you some training. Like you would get in the Army.

DNR: What kind of training?

Calisthenics and service related things and we had to work every day, doing different things.

DNR: Did they have like an Army induction; give you a bunch of shots a physical, haircuts and issuing clothes and that sort?

Oh Yah. We were all pretty tough guys in those days and we did all of that work, I was more or less a foreman for them for building the dam. There were several of us that built the dam. I wish I knew where it was. I wouldn't mind going out there.

DNR: South and east of Red Oak

I am pretty sure it was out there. We rode a truck out there and it was pretty dusty.

DNR: Do you remember what type of uniforms you were issued?

They were suntans in the summer time just like in the Army and then OD's in the winter. I seen where that one guy said they had a shower unit there but I don't remember it freezing up in the wintertime. I don't remember anything like that. They sure feed us pretty good.

DNR: Did you take any personal items with you to the camp?

No. Just what I had on, my clothes that is all.

DNR: Was there any items you were not allowed to bring to the camp?

No, I don't think so.

DNR: Where were you put up for lodging?

In the barracks, they had at Clarinda about 15 or 20 guys in one barracks.

DNR: How about Red Oak was that about the same thing?

Yah.

DNR: The Barracks, I have heard some different stories. Did they have the peaked roof or the rounded Quonset roof?

Peaked roof. When I went down to Clarinda we went to Missouri and tore down a barracks that they didn't want any more.

DNR: Where that was at, do you recall?

I can't recall it wasn't too far down.

DNR: Did they re-assembly it again?

No, they just tore the whole thing up with a chain saw. They started on the roof in sections. I don't know what they did with it.

DNR: They would have had chainsaws back then?

No, it was a skill saw. No they didn't have any chainsaws and just went through the nails and everything in the roof, right through 10-foot sections.

DNR: Did the barracks that you lived in have any insulation or what kind of heat did they have anything? What kind of heat did they have?

I don't know they were pretty cold there. They had 2 pot-bellied stoves on each end one on each end.

DNR: It was pretty cold?

Yah, it was pretty cold.

DNR: Who supplied your bedding and sleepwear?

They did and did an inspection every morning to see if the bed was made and everything.

DNR: What kind of blankets?

OD blankets.

DNR: Ok, how many did you have, do you recall?

I think two one on the bottom and one on the top we had sheets but we didn't like them in the wintertime.

DNR: Was there anything like a comforter or anything like that or was it just the two blankets?

No, it was just the OD blankets.

DNR: Do you remember who some of your bunkmates were?

Some of the bunk guys? Yah, I got some names here. Keith Woods I don't know where he is at, I tried to get a hold of him. Then a guy by the name of Kibbet, he was a truck driver.

DNR: How do you spell that name?

K-i-b-b-e-t. He was the one that had something wrong with him that he would get the shakes and stuff and one guy threw water in his face when he was laying in bed going like that and it just came steaming out. I don't remember was disease it was. He would come right out of it.

DNR: Maybe it was epilepsy?

And then Joel White was my leader; I think he was from Sidney, down there. I tried to get a hold of them and I can't find them. Willy Wigs he is in Clarinda and Walter Baker, he lived in Red Oak and guy by the name of Wilson he was from Council Bluffs. I got in a fight with a cook one time and his name was Carey, he was from Omaha.

DNR: Was that Carey?

No, it was C-A-R-E-Y. And a guy by the name of Paris and McKinsey, Cartwright. And I seen in the paper the other day a guy by the name of Claude Please died, he was in the service too.

DNR: You did pretty well about remembering names?

Well yah, it just comes to me sometimes, there was a lot of them there that I don't remember. There was one kid there that could walk on his hands up the steps and all, he was a pretty good buddy, but I don't remember what his name.

DNR: How did you guys get along?

We got along pretty good. I got in a fight with Joel White one time. It really wasn't a fight and I don't know why I hit him and he fell on the bed and he got up and wouldn't fight no more. He was a pretty good guy and built pretty well too. He was my platoon leader and after that we didn't have any trouble.

DNR: Can you tell me about the food in the mess hall?

Oh, it was all good.

DNR: Are there any items that you remember anything special?

No, I don't remember we ate a lot of oatmeal and cornmeal and stuff like that.

DNR: Did you ever have to help in the kitchen?

I don't know why I never did have to do any KP in the kitchen, I did down there in Clarinda when those guys would go on vacation. They would give me a dollar a day to do KP work. Peel potatoes and stuff.

DNR: You did that while you were in Clarinda?

Yes, I didn't have to do nothing in Red Oak? I don't know why. I think they had civilians doing that, I am not sure. I know when I was driving the cat and I got liquored up one day or one night and I came around about midnight, I went to the guy that was in charge of hauling the caterpillars and stuff and I swiped his keys and they were building a baseball diamond out there.

I started up that caterpillar about midnight, running that cat and woke up that guy and boy was he mad. He got calling company commander and the company commander kind of liked me and he said, "Well heck if he wants to do it let him do it, let him wake up the whole company." (Laughter)

Nonpareil reporter: Where did you take the caterpillar, right along side of the camp?

Yah, I was right along side of the camp leveling it off and making that ballpark. And I was also in charge of the pool tables, we had about 5 pool tables and we would play pea pool, you would get one pea for breaking the ball and one for the ball. I played pea pool for all of them 5 tables. I would kept the company money in one pocket and my money in the other pocket. We made a lot of money. The other guy I don't remember what his name was that was in charge of the pop and stuff you know.

DNR: So this was in the canteen?

Yes.

Nonpareil reporter: Did you make money for the company or yourself?

I played all of the tables you know and I got 2 peas in each one and if it was my shot why I would go from table to table and rake the balls up every time you know and I was busy we made a lot of money.

DNR: How many tables did they have?

I believe there were 5. Yep.

DNR: Go back to the food; do you know who did the cooking in camp?

Well that one guy that I was telling you about, Perry. He was in charge of that, no I don't think he was in charge but he was a cook. We got into it one time.

DNR: Was he a CCC boy or was he a military person?

He was a CCC guy.

Nonpareil reporter: What did you get into with him about?

Oh, I don't know. (Laughter)

I got liquored up one time and went down to the tavern and we got to arguing you know and he said well anyway, I made a pass at him and I missed I guess. Boy he knocked me down and I was laying in the snow bank for I don't know how long and next morning the company commander came in there and I tried to cover my face up you know, cause I had a pretty good black eye and he said, "What happened to you" and I said "Nothing much." (Laughter) I wouldn't tell him who it was, he wanted to know and it was my fault.

Reporter: I have got the impression you kind of remember what this fight was about but don't want to tell us?

Do what now?

Reporter: I kind of got the impression you may remember but you don't want to tell us is that the deal?

Right. (Laughter)

Reporter: And liquor was involved, ok.

DNR: How were your holiday meals, were there anything special about holiday meals?

Well, yah, we would go sometimes, I know Vance Robertson he was another guy, he was from Shelby and that is when I lived in Shelby. We rode a freight train from Red Oak to Shelby but the old black smoke and everything. I told him we ought to get off at Avoca it was about 8 miles from Shelby. And he said oh no they will stop in Shelby and they didn't they went all the way into Council Bluffs. (Laughter)

Boy we were filthy and cold and our hair was all dirty. Boy we had to hitchhike all the way back and boy it was cold too. Old Vance he was quite the guy, I met him he was in the same outfit I was in overseas in Italy.

DNR: Do you recall when payday was? When you were paid?

They would take laundry and stuff out of that \$5.00 too. We did most of our own washing our clothes ourselves. Yah.

DNR: Do remember how much laundry would have cost then?

Well very seldom did I have my OD pressed and it would cost about a \$1.00 I think in those days when we would send it off to the laundry. Usually we would just wash and iron them ourselves.

DNR: Ok, was there a laundry facility in the camp?

Yah.

DNR: What kind of facilities did you have?

Just a regular type wash machine, wringer wash machine you know.

DNR: How did you spend your pay?

I usually spent it drinking. I did a lot of drinking in my life. (Laughter)

DNR: I see. What were your days off?

Just Saturday and Sunday, yep.

DNR: And how did you spend your Saturdays and Sundays?

Girlin, most of the time. Yah that was quite a crowd.

DNR: Both of the camps Clarinda and Red Oak were they pretty close to town, so could you walk to town or did you have to get a ride to town?

No, you walked, they had a roller skating rink at Clarinda and I met a girlfriend there.

DNR: Ok, how were Sundays observed at that camp?

Oh just laying around reading and listening to the radio, that was about all you would do.

DNR: Was there a radio in your barracks? Was it the real big ones that you always hear about?

It was about that high and kind of round, sounded good.

DNR: Was in on a table or something?

Yah.

DNR: Can you tell me about any sports activities that you would have had at camp? You mentioned building a ball field.

Well, we played a lot of ping-pong I know that, played catch. Like I said they were building the ball diamond, we didn't have any before just played catch, tag football more or less.

Reporter: You said more or less did it get a little rough once in a while?

Yah.

DNR: You also said before that you played pool.

DNR: What sports did you participate in? Did you play tackle football or touch football?

Oh, mostly played tag football mostly. We didn't want to get hurt.

DNR: Will you tell me about any personal conflicts you might have had with other people and how you resolved those conflicts?

We got along good with the civilians. We had no trouble at all. They had a rumor there, they said, "Watch the CC boys they will come and get the girls." We didn't have trouble much trouble with the civilians.

DNR: Did you have any trouble with any of the other guys at the camp?

Well, one times the company commander he called me in the office and said, "Lets go over to the barracks, I want to check off on something." So we went up there you know and we had 2 pairs of shoes, one for every day and one for dress and he looked down in my bunk there and he said, "Now these here pair of shoes, you've got 2 pair of shoes there."

And I said," I didn't know where the other pair come from," they were kind of scurried. He said, "Well a guy by the name of McKinsey he said I swiped them from him." I said, "Why would I want to swipe an old pair of shoes like that?" Anyway he didn't do anything about it because he knew I was right. Why would I swipe and old beat up pair of shoes when I had real nice ones?

Anyway I met him you know what was funny? In the service in Italy I met him in the dark. That McKinsey, and I tried to get a hold of him but I don't remember his first name. I called him up after I saw in the paper about the CCC's. But I forgot about all of that.

Another thing a poor guy, I don't remember what his name is, when we were in Red Oak, he wanted me to drive the caterpillar down to the Clarinda on a dirt road most of the time. I got down there and I would lie on top of the cat, it got kind of cold and I would guide the dang thing with my feet, you know the levers. (Laughter)

DNR: So you drove a Cat from Red Oak to Clarinda?

Yah, I don't remember how far exactly, it was about 12 or 14 miles I think, but anyway we got down there to Clarinda and he came around there with a pickup and said, "Roy why did you go down the ditch for? I told him I was chasing a rabbit. (Laughter) Oh yah, we had a lot of fun though.

DNR: I see.

I got acquainted with that Doctor; we kind of hit it off in the evening. He stayed there all of the time and once he said, "Do you want a drink?" and I said yeah. He would have regular alcohol that we would mix with coke and I would go down there at least a couple times at least a week.

DNR: Was that at the dispensary?

Yah.

DNR: I see.

We got along pretty good. I don't remember his name either.

DNR: What kind of discipline would they have for rule breakers in the camp?

Well they got K P. we really didn't have too much trouble that way. I don't recall any.

DNR: You didn't get any discipline for the cat incident at midnight either?

I think vaguely some one guy doing something or another. But I don't remember exactly what it was. They treated us real good.

DNR: What if you went AWOL and didn't come back, would they go out looking for you or what?

They just left, there wasn't too many of them that did that either that I recall.

DNR: I understand that there was some educational or trade opportunities things that you could learn while you were in the camp.

Well I didn't do it, some of them did I don't remember.

DNR: You don't know where the classes would have been held or who the teachers would have been anyway?

Well mostly in the day room. Yah, they had classes I remember that but I never was too good in school. I started school when I was 4 years old in the first grade because my birthday was September 24th and that is when they started the 1st or 10th of September being I would be 5 on the 24th they let me go to school. I was 10 years old in the sixth grade. And I did well. I just remembered all of those words, I would hurry up and write them all down and I then I would start studying for the next day. I would get 100 % everyday. That was something; I know this has nothing to do with the CC's.

DNR: Can you tell me some of the main projects your camp was involved in?

Well that is what I am saying, I don't remember exactly what I did in Clarinda, but I don't recall much only that we were there only 2 months so it was hard to recall. But like I said in Red Oak I drove the caterpillar and built terraces and was on the civilian crew, built the dam. We would have one guy bring the dirt up on a wheelbarrow and I would have the other guy rake it with a regular rake and tap it down and make it smooth. We did a pretty good job on that.

DNR: What were some of your duties then? Were your duties driving the cat, we heard putting in dams in some of the waterways and things like that. Did you do any of that kind of work?

Yes, that is what I was saying we built terraces I pulled a grader building them. When they were done I would have to have to take the caterpillar and go along the topside of it and they would say cut 1.10th off of it. I had to take the scraper down and pull it down so the water would go the way you wanted it.

DNR: Now the cat you had a blade on the front then and a scraper on the back then.

No it was a scraper I didn't use a bulldozer.

DNR: The cat do you recall what model it would have been?

It was an 8 horsepower; I don't remember what they called it. I had to pull a 4-wheel grader; we did a pretty good job on it.

DNR: Did someone instruct you on how to run this cat?

Well not really I just got on it and did it myself.

DNR: Was there any other training on something that you got?

No, I just got on the dam thing and started driving it.

DNR: We heard about LEM's, local experienced men that would help out on local projects, do you recall any?

No.

DNR: Ok. Who were your leaders on the job? Did you have like a foreman for each job?

Well, like I said Joe White was my barracks leader and I was the assistant barracks, then they had that conservation guy, I don't remember what his name was. He was a pretty good guy too I can't recall his name.

DNR: Ok. Did you get along ok with this Joe White your foreman?

Oh yah just had one roundup. I tell you how it happened with this Joe White he was given the guy heck for not making his bed in the morning. And I looked over there his way and his bed was not made. I said to him, "Joe why are you getting on this guy your bed isn't made?" So that is what we got into it about for. (Laughter) I remember know what it was. I smacked him and knocked him down and he got up and boy I was sure I was going to get the heck beat out of me, but he didn't even pull a punch. Maybe he knew he was in the wrong, I guess.

DNR: How did you get your work assignments each day?

Well, the foreman would usually tell us what to do. We would just go out the next day and do the same thing again.

DNR: The morning you would get up you would go eat breakfast and they would put you on a truck and take you out to your work site.

Yah, it was just kind of a dusty ride on all those dirt roads.

DNR: What kind of equipment did you get to use? You mentioned the cat, what kind of hand equipments did you get to use?

Mostly shovels and rakes and wheelbarrows to build the dam. I was in charge of that when we had that 6 ft. plume, you know where the water goes over the dam. Look out for the bending the rods and reinforcements; I had to do all of that.

DNR: How did you bend them, did you have to heat them up?

Regular bender, pull a lever and it would bend. Put it in there and you could turn it one side or another you know.

DNR: Some sort of pipe bender.

Yah, we had to put boards so we could pour the cement in it, so we could make the plume.

DNR: Was all the cement poured by hand? Did you have cement mixers?

No all by hand.

DNR: Did you have any finishing trowels to smooth off the cement?

Yes, we used a trowel.

DNR: Today they have shakers to see if the cement is pushed down?

We just had a rod and we pushed it down. I think it had a little something on the bottom to push it to tamp it down. There were no holes in the cement it when it was done. But I can't remember what we did down there in Clarinda. The only thing I said is that we tore down that barracks down in Missouri, when we were at Clarinda. I do remember that.

DNR: Some of the other guys were mentioned building some sort of lake south that was and west and south of Clarinda.

I don't remember any of that; I must have not been there very long.

DNR: Do you any contact with any of your fellow CCC workers today?

No, not really most of them have passed away or moved out. Willy Wiggs he was from Whiting, I do no that. There is a lot of Wiggs up to Onawa I seen in the phone book that must be his kids.

DNR: I assuming camp was a mix of people and kids of country kids and city kids, was there any conflicts between the city kids and the country kids?

No, it wasn't too bad, the only time we had any trouble was down in Missouri and one kid got into trouble down their. And I will never forget that. The marshal down he kicked that kid in the butt you know. I imagine he was walking right down in the main street. It was terrible because I was right there and they didn't do anything to me. But he picked on this one kid and of course we had rifles too for training not for shooting. But anyway he was going to get some ammunition and shot that sun of a gun. I said, "Ah forget it." He finally did.

DNR: So you actually practiced with rifles in formations type things?

Yah, yah for parades and marching.

Reporter: Was this kick in the butt thing sort of general contempt?

Down in Missouri it was kind of mean and they didn't like the CC guys?

Reporter: Was that because they didn't like people coming in from outside or what?

I don't know what that kid did. There was about 4 or 5 of us there, he just picked on this kid, and kicked him, not once but two or three times, right there with all of these people around, that was kind of embarrassing. I didn't blame the kid for getting mad. I tried to talk him out of it.

DNR: This was like a sheriff that kicked him?

It was the town Marshall. But outside of that we never had any trouble with the civilians.

DNR: Was there any minority groups in your camps, African Americans or American Indians or Hispanics.

No we were all white. We had some Indians and we got along all right.

DNR: Were they treated any thing differently from their superiors or were they treated the same as you guys?

They did pretty well. No we didn't have any trouble. We didn't have any blacks.

DNR: Can you tell me specific skills you would have learned at the CCC camp?

They had some but I don't remember what it was, some of the guys went there for different things but I don't really recall what they was, but I do recall that some of them went to classes. Taking up things, but I never did, I wasn't too good on that.

DNR: Was there any injuries at work, anyone getting hurt on the job?

No can't remember, that one kid that dumped that wheel borrow of dirt and he would rake that and one time it got warm and he had his shirt off. Holly cow, he had

blisters and infection thing, God, terrible all over his back. I went and got some alcohol and the next day I would go in there and I would squeeze some of those things and use the tweezers on him and I finally cured his whole back. I told him to eat something different. I think it was yeast that you are supposed to eat when you get pimples like that. Anyhow it was terrible. I had a roll of toilet paper that I would use every time and boy it would burn, but we got it done. I can't remember what his name was.

DNR: How were injuries taking care of then, you mentioned a Doctor there.

Yes they had a Doctor there. I tell you I don't remember ever having an accident, I just don't remember.

DNR: Was there any nurses in addition to the Doctor or was it just the Doctor there to care for the people.

I don't remember, I think it was just a Doctor. He was a nice Doctor there at Red Oak.

DNR: Was he a military Doctor or was he just a civilian?

I think he was a civilian. I don't remember know don't quote me.

DNR: Was there any disease that occurred at camp?

No.

DNR: The flu or anything?

No but we did get shots I just don't remember any diseases. I can't remember of any trouble like that.

DNR: Was there any insect or rodent problems, mosquitoes, rats or mice?

Mosquitoes were real bad; of course we didn't have repellent like we do today.

DNR: Did you ever do any work for the community outside of the CCC camp helping out with local floods or disasters or in the town just helping out?

Yes, when I lived in Shelby I use to go out and mow lawns for the older people and stuff like that.

DNR: That is not while you were at the camp, right?

No, we weren't in camp then.

DNR: We sort of touched on this earlier, how was the contact with the local community?

That is what I was saying; we didn't have any trouble with the local community.

DNR: No altercations in the taverns or anything like that?

No. They didn't like us too good, but we didn't have any trouble with them.

DNR: Was there any fellowship groups in the camp, Masons, Eagles or Odd Fellows or anything like that?

I don't recall.

DNR: Can you tell me if you had any contacts you would have had with females when you were in the camp?

Did you date a lot of local girls?

Yah, we this one Baker girl we would ride around a lot. One day this guy told me that was Joe Whites girlfriend, so he stopped and shoot the bull with them. So it was raining and they asked if we wanted a ride and there were the two girls. They had a Model A coupe we drove around a while and I got a smooching her and made out with her all right.

And one time her sister came from, what in the hell was the name of that town, Saliska, no I don't remember. Her sister came into town and they asked if I wanted

to take her to the show. Joe usually took her out on Saturday night because he had the money and I didn't. But anyway I said I didn't care. I made out with her that one night. Nice girl.

DNR: Was that Joes girlfriend?

Yah. One night we were walking down the street in Red Oak and met Joe and his girlfriend Lucille and this girl I don't remember her name. She said, "This is my boyfriend," and Lucille got madder that heck and I said, "What are you hollering about, you are going with Joe." We broke up after that. I ruined the whole thing.

Well is this about it?

DNR: Well we have a few more questions.

Ok, well, I can't here to well anymore.

DNR: Were any of the other boys at camp jealous of the CCC boys?

No, I don't recall anything like that.

DNR: What do you think was the most memorable experience about the camp that sticks out?

I think the most things interested was being a good pool man and driving that cat and all of the fooling around I did.

DNR: Any odd experiences?

No, I don't think so.

DNR: Do you think being in the CCC's changed your life?

Oh yah, I learned a lot there and I enjoyed it. If I didn't think I had that disease I would have stayed in there. But I was kind of worried about that. I thought I had a dose but I didn't. I want to show you something here that I got a silver star; I was a machine gun squad leader. One guy came out to me he was in Company A, where he was assigned to and they said they were going to pull out and go up to Germany, this was kind of an defense position. This has nothing to do with the CCC of course. But anyway I thought you might be interested in that. They said that they were going to move out about midnight. I told them I had 4 guys under me and a machine gun and I told them to sack out. So I assumed they were going to wake me up, yah know to go up there. So anyway it was about

12:30 and I woke up and a guy told me that they had already left. I told the other to saddle up because I knew where they went down by the creek you know, and when we got up there and started walking up the hill there was a house there with a German tank right up along side of it. I said God, (laughter) I seen it going the other way we went the other way and about 30 or 40 feet from the tank there was a machine gun setting up there with two guys in it sound asleep. I said boy if we could that machine gun and get a bazooka up there we could knock off that tank out, so the bank was up like this and in order to cover them I couldn't go back to far. I had a M1, so anyway they were both asleep so I poked one in the chest and said "Hounds up," in broken German. (Laughter). So anyway he grabbed a hold of the dam barrel and I shot and he had that death grip on it, and I caught him down in here when I raised up and in the mean time this other guy was looking for his weapon or something and I raised up the barrel down there and just shot him between the eyes, but anyway before that I said you guys come up here and get this other guy before he gets me, you now. And this other guy was a recruit he had his carving crossed over his back and had a heck of a time getting that off him. He finally got that off

and shot the other guy in the back, but when I got back I shot the other guy between the eyes and then I took off. I said, "You guys follow me," cause I was running pretty good we were running pretty good and I said, "Don't get lost or nothing will run down there." They had those grape vines down there and I said, "Dig in" and we got in there quite a ways they through in their machine guns and artillery and every thing down there. I lost one guy and he had the tripod on that machine gun in two pieces and his name was Kline and he was in between us and the Germans and us was throwing mortars and artilleries back in forth and I had to order another one. And he came back later that night and I was mad as heck

And I said, "Where in the hell did you go?" he said "I got scared, I just took off." Anyway after it was all over with there was a platoon, A Company all they did was went from there and went around there. They didn't go up the hill at all. Ah boy did I bawl him out. (Laughter) He was a private, I bawled him out. They said I had Tommy gun, well I did have one but I had a motor come in there before and just wreck that motor and I was in a fox hole another guy was with me, he got killed, he had shrapnel metal on the back of his neck and one in his leg and one that broke his wrist. I was right beside him and didn't even hurt me that was where the Tommy gun was. It was terrible thing. I dug a hole one time it was kind of muddy and here came a German, I mean our tank ran over my foxhole and shot three rounds. The first round I did a complete flip that is probably why I am hard of hearing for one thing. And then he moved out and here came the Germans shooting at him caused he was already moved out.

Reporter: If you had to do it different how would you have done it?

My boy he was, well when I was 25 he was born and then anyway the Vietnam War was going on and he wanted to go in and I said for all that you were going to get out of it the heck with it. I wouldn't encourage anybody to go. But do you know what, I was driving a truck for Sand Oil, delivering oil before the World War, I started with that in 47 and the price was going low and then Truman was in there. I was a die hard Democrat then and when they started the Korean War. If they had to have a war to keep the dam prices up then I am quitting and that was when I went to being a Republican. I don't care if anyone knows it or not that is the whole story. They didn't have any business being in the Korean War or in Vietnam War.

DNR: What did you do after you left the C's; you obviously were in the armed forces, right?

When I left the C's I went to work on a farm near Aspinwall up by Manning for about \$45.00 a month. I picked corn for 2 cents a bushel. I know one day I know one day got a hundred bushel. That was \$2.00 boy at night my arm would go to sleep, I would put them up there like that and oh God. Well I was over in Italy, (showing a picture), I was one of these guys right here.

Reporter: Was it a lot better around here than it was in other parts of the country?

Oh, I don't know. I was up by Aspinwall way up by Manning and I worked up there. Well anyway I was over there in Italy, I am in one of these guys right here.

That is Mussolini and his hedge man and down there in DeSolonia.

DNR: I remember hearing they were hung up side down.

They tied up there feet. A method that Russian uses, that is where they rallied there. I got acquainted with other Russians drinking beer and everything else.

DNR: How long were you in the service?

I was in the service for 4 years and 8 months. I volunteered January the 9th and got discharged September the 1st. back in 46.

DNR: So you got out in 46, so you went in 42?

No, January in 1941.

DNR: So you were in the service before Pearl Harbor?

I was in for about a year.

DNR: Where were you at when you heard about Pearl Harbor?

I was up to Minneapolis I came down in the day room one time and had a few beers the night before and was told they bombed Pearl Harbor, and I said, "What the hell you talking about?" Then I listened to the radio.

DNR: You were in the Army?

Yah, I enlisted in Fort Omaha and my IQ was 128, and he said what service do you want to go in the Navy or Air Corp? And I said, "Which one is the toughest?" and he said, "The Army." So I said, "That is where I want to go." (Laughter). That is where I wanted to go.

Reporter: You didn't want to fly planes?

No. I didn't.

I was a platoon leader in Oklahoma and I new one guy that was going to kill his company commander, which was the same one that I was in. I was in a anti tank platoon sergeant and had 30 some guys under me and anyway it was hot. And he had a quart of whiskey and I tried to talk him out of it.

End of Interview.

